

DRAFT

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Stephanie O’Keeffe (Chair), Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden (Clerk), Diana Stein, Gerald Weiss
Town Staff: Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager; Epi Bodhi, Health Director.
Members of the Public: Dr. Barbara Love

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:30 p.m.

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Health Department Briefing – Inequality’s Effect on Health

The Select Board heard a presentation from Epi Bodhi, Health Director and Dr. Barbara Love regarding the Health Department's work in learning from and educating Town staff about the role race, gender and class plays in public health. Town officials, Town Meeting members and community members are encouraged to attend a May 19, 2009 event at the Amherst Cinema featuring parts of the documentary **"Unnatural Causes,"** and a dialogue among participants. No action was taken.

Letter Supporting Manhan Rail Trail

VOTED unanimously, to approve the letter to the Massachusetts Highway Department supporting the use of **Federal Stimulus Funds** for the **Manhan Rail Trail**.

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Shaffer and Ms. Bodhi gave the Board an update on the recent **Swine Flu Cases** at Amherst College. Mr. Shaffer read a letter from Charles Scherpa, Chief of Police relating to the **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant** for which the Amherst Police Department is applying. It is a requirement of the application that the Board be informed of the grant. Mr. Shaffer spoke about the **Committee on Homelessness**’ concerns about the proposed process for distributing **Waxman funds**. Currently, the funds are distributed at the discretion of the Town Manager; the Committee on Homelessness’ concerns will be addressed before the proposal is brought to the Select Board for endorsement. The Select Board reaffirmed its desire to be kept informed about all grants under consideration in order to establish a standard grant review process.

Member Reports

Ms. Stein spoke briefly about a community service awards reception she recently attended, and praised the more than 3000 UMass students participating in community service through volunteering and coursework.

The Board discussed the invitation to **Kanegasaki Japan**; Ms. O’Keeffe is unable to accept the invitation. Ms. Stein stated that she had spoken to an Asian affairs expert, who said that it was important that the Board accept the invitation. The Board agreed that further discussion on this topic should take place at a later meeting.

Approve Draft April Select Board Report

No action taken.

Decision Regarding Wednesday Meeting

After a brief discussion, the Board decided that it would meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

Committee Appointments

The Board discussed the current expectations relating to handling upcoming expiring committee terms; and that the current policy should be discussed and potentially changed.

VOTED, O’Keeffe, Hayden, Stein, Weiss “Aye”, Brewer absent, to appoint the following:

- Touria Eaton, Agricultural Commission, to fill the vacancy of John Ingram for a term to expire June 30, 2010.
- Sally Fitz, Agricultural Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012.
- Margaret (Rachel) Hankinson, Public Arts Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012.

Approve Minutes

The Board decided that the draft minutes from the April 13, 2009 and April 22, 2009 Select Board meetings needed more information, and would consider them at a later date.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Special Wine & Malt Liquor License – R & P Liquors

VOTED, O’Keeffe, Hayden, Stein, Weiss “Aye”, Brewer absent, to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for R & P Liquors for May 16, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. at the Red Barn at Hampshire College for a reception.

Special Wine & Malt Liquor License – R & P Liquors

VOTED, O’Keeffe, Hayden, Stein, Weiss “Aye”, Brewer absent, to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for R & P Liquors for June 1, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Atkins Fruit Bowl for Cruise Night.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 7:22 p.m.

APPENDIX

Ms. O'Keeffe's 5/4/09 Post-Meeting List

Called to order: 6:30 p.m.; adjourned 7:22 p.m.

Voted:

- To approve the two special liquor license applications, per the motion sheet, in a single vote of 4-0, 1 absent (Brewer)
- To approve the appointments of Touria Eaton and Sally Fitz to the Agricultural Commission, and Margaret (Rachel) Hankinson to the Public Arts Commission, per the motion sheet, in a vote of 4-0, 1 absent (Brewer)
- To approve the letter supporting using Federal stimulus funds for the Manhan Rail Trail

Agreed, without votes:

- That the draft minutes of 4/13 and 4/22 are too sparse and need more information (it was not discussed who would do this or how it would happen)
- That additional discussion is needed about the Select Board's expectations of the handling of expiring committee terms (to clarify what we think our policy is, and how to communicate and implement that)
- That additional discussion is needed regarding the Kanegasaki invitation (Stephanie said that she would not be able to accept the invitation; Gerry suggested that the SB reconsider its position in light of Anne Awad's letter; Diana said that an Asian affairs expert she consulted said it was important to accept the invitation)
- That we will meet on Wednesday, May 6th, as scheduled

Requested:

- Copies of the grant application materials for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, and reiterated the Select Board's request for more information about grants, in order to establish a standard grant review process
- That Stephanie get clarification on what kind of recommendations/feedback the Finance Committee is looking for from the SB, per the BCG meeting

Items to be added to the 5/6 agenda (subject to change):

- Discussion of the Kanegasaki invitation
- Discussion of the process and communication for handling expiring committee terms
- Also expected: presentation of Article 13 - Petition, Gas Tax

Items to be added to the 5/11 agenda (subject to change):

- Budget issues: Select Board recommendations for the Finance Committee; Select Board support for a reserve use proposal; discussion of CPA use for capital

Materials to be brought back to next meeting:

- Draft committee term letters (from 5/4 packet)
- Kanegasaki materials from 4/22 packet and Awad letter from our desks 4/27

Issues not resulting in actions:

- Heard presentation from Dr. Barbara Love and Epi Bodhi of Health Department's work in learning from and educating Town staff about the role race, gender and class plays in public health. Town officials, Town Meeting members and community members are encouraged to attend a May 19th event (flier was provided) at the Amherst Cinema featuring parts of the documentary "Unnatural Causes," and a dialogue among participants
- Epi and Larry provided updates on the H1N1/Swine Flu situation, and Larry read an update from the State's Department of Public Health
- Larry read Chief Scherpa's letter describing the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in to the record, as required for the grant application
- Larry referenced the Committee on Homelessness' concerns about the proposed process for distributing funds from the Waxman case; those concerns will be addressed before the proposal comes to the Select Board for endorsement; in the meantime, use of those funds for emergency shelter and fuel assistance is at Larry's discretion
- Diana spoke of a community service awards reception she attended, and praised the multitude of UMass students participating in community service through volunteering and course work